	millim.
Total length	170
Head	26
Width of head	20
Body	69
Fore limb	30
Hind limb	42
Tail	75

A single female specimen, from Delagoa Bay; presented by the South-African Museum, Cape Town.

Rhoptropus ocellatus, sp. n.

Head much depressed; snout broadly rounded, a little longer than the diameter of the orbit, as long as the distance between the latter and the ear; latter rather large, elliptical, oblique; forehead not concave. Head covered with flat granules, largest on the snout; rostral trapezoid, separating the nasals; nostril pierced between the first labial and two nasals; latter not swollen; seven upper and six lower labials; mental large, subtriangular, broader than long, in contact with two chin-shields; the chin-shields graduating into the smaller gular scales. Dorsal scales small, granular; ventrals much larger, roundish-hexagonal, imbricate. Limbs shorter than in *R. afer*; the adpressed hind limb reaches the axilla. Inner digit very short, not half the length of second. An uninterrupted series of thirty-one femoral and præanal pores in the male. Grey above, with round, dark-edged, whitish spots; a rather indistinct dark line on each side of the head, passing through the eye; lower surfaces whitish.

	millim.
From snout to vent	35
Head	11
Width of head	7
Fore limb	14
Hind limb	18

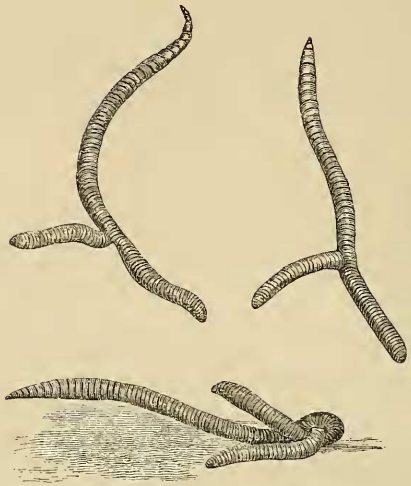
A single male specimen, from Cape Town; presented by the South-African Museum.

XLIV.—*Notice of two* Lumbrici *with bifid Hinder Ends.*

By Prof. F. Jeffrey Bell, M.A.

On the 20th of June last Dr. Günther received from Dr. Kirkman, of Hastings, a small earthworm (*Lumbricus terrestris*) which was remarkable for having the hinder third of its body bifurcated. The figures now given are reproductions of the sketches made a few days later by Mr Mintern; they

exhibit the natural size of the worm, and the form it took when moving at ease. It will be observed that the left branch appears to be a little shorter than the right; and at



times this difference appeared to be better marked, so that an observer would frequently remark that the left branch looked like a bud. That it was not so was proved by this one fact, that, as time went on, the difference in size became more marked.

For more than two months the worm was under my care, and I sedulously attended and watched it.

On August 21 it was still very lively, and for the first time there were apparent some indications of a future clitellum, of which as yet there had been no sign; but even these were still obscure. There was now a very definite difference between the left- and the right-hand branches, the former being not only smaller but much less active.

On the 25th of August Mr. Hesse (the taxidermist to the Zoological Department, to whose charge I committed the worm during an absence from London) observed that the creature had lost its "tails," and on the 29th of August it was found dead.

On the 22nd of August Mr. Harting was kind enough to hand to me an example of a "brandling" (*Lumbricus fœtidus*) which had been forwarded to him by Mr. Robert Service, of

Maxwelltown, Dumfries, on account of "its bifurcated tail;" this specimen was dead, and was unfortunately sent dry.

The only specimen known to me which presents a similar arrangement of the hinder end of the body is in the Anatomical Department of the University Museum at Oxford, a short notice of which was published by Mr. Charles Robertson in 1867*.

The specimen having died after losing its "tails," and the portions having been lost during my absence from London, there has been no opportunity of making an anatomical investigation; had I done so I should, I am sure, have found the dorsal blood-vessel dividing into equal branches at the point of bifurcation, and I should, I think, have found the enteric tract in the right half a little larger than that in the left.

My primary object in this notice is to put on record an occurrence which, it is possible, is not very rare, but which has, at least, escaped general observation. It can be but matter of guesswork what was the nature of the accident that preceded the appearance of the bifurcated end; it is almost as hard to see exactly what the phenomenon does teach us:—

1. It makes it quite certain that, like lizards with their tails, earthworms may reproduce bilaterally what is ordinarily only produced terminally. But this is only another way of saying that earthworms are subject to a well-known and widely diffused "law."

2. The fact that the clitellum only became apparent a few days before the loss of the hinder end is positive; but the events may or may not have any relation to one another. If they have, they only show that when the earthworm is reproducing parts of its body it is, *pro tanto*, comparable to a form reproducing itself asexually, a phenomenon which, so high in the scale of organization, is, we know, not compatible or contemporaneous with sexual reproduction.

XLV.—*Trachelius ovum*. By Sara Gwendolen Foulke†.

In first describing this Infusorian, Ehrenberg attributed to it the possession of a much ramified œsophageal canal; but his view, subsequently upheld by Claparède and Lachmann, has been strongly opposed by W. Saville Kent, who claims that the so-called alimentary canal is merely the granular protoplasm

* Quarterly Journal Microsc. Sci. vii. (1867), p. 157. I am indebted to Mr. Robertson for this reference.

† From the 'Journal of the New York Microscopical Society.'